

in Yorba Linda, California. I have no doubt his family is proud of him. When he's not out on the road, Mr. Showler is an active long board surfer and helps coach his son's Little League games.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Showler's record of safety, and I hope my colleagues will join me in saluting his one million-mile driving safety achievement.

SMALL BUSINESS AND DIS- LOCATED WORKER OPPOR- TUNITY ACT

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, at a time when American workers are facing new challenges, it is important to open new avenues to prosperity and economic success. Entrepreneurship has long been such a path: it holds the promise that anyone can pursue his or her own dream. Workers who have been laid off because of import competition deserve to be able to pursue such opportunities. They also deserve a helping hand as they forge this new path for themselves.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Program was designed to help workers who are displaced due to foreign competition. It provides assistance so that such workers may seek training to gain new skills, and launch themselves onto a more stable and prosperous career track. However, the program can do more to help people who want to start their own businesses.

This bill will accomplish that goal. It specifies that workers who pursue self-employment assistance activities—such as entrepreneurial training, business counseling, technical assistance and related training approved by an appropriate State agency—can still qualify for Trade Readjustment Allowances (extended benefits equal to unemployment insurance) under the TAA program.

In addition, this bill also ensures that displaced workers have a more realistic chance to succeed in their new business. People who have unexpectedly lost their jobs have rarely had the chance to plan or to save the extra resources needed to start a business. On top of that, they face ongoing living and medical expenses. Unemployment Insurance and TRA can help to meet these costs, but they stop as soon as a new business starts, at a time when most businesses are still struggling and when the income they bring is most insecure.

That is why this bill will allow workers who have undergone entrepreneurial training to continue receiving TRA during the first six months after the start of their new business. This gives displaced workers a crucial source of income support, and helps them overcome the distinct disadvantage their job dislocation has caused. However, to ensure that businesses succeed on their own merits, the bill provides for these extended payments to be phased out over time. Thus, workers would be eligible for full TRA in the first 14 weeks after they start their new business, 75 percent of their benefit in the 6 weeks thereafter, and 50 percent of the benefit in the next six weeks.

This bill not only gives hard-working Americans the freedom to pursue a new profes-

sional path, it also gives them the means to do so. It levels the playing field so that workers who have lost their job because of foreign competition have a fair chance at turning misfortune into opportunity. As the wave of global economic change forces our workers to adapt, we must give them the tools to succeed. This bill is a strong step in the right direction.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2646, FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my friend, Representative BACA, and his motion to instruct farm bill conferees to restore food stamp benefits to immigrants.

The Baca motion supports immigrants being allowed to apply for food stamps if they are low-income and have been in the United States for 5 or more years. Children would also be eligible for food stamps regardless of when they entered the United States.

In my congressional district, the restoration of food stamps benefits is very important. Everyday, many of my constituents, who often hold more than one job, wake up and go to work to provide for their families. Studies have shown that 43 percent of legal immigrants are working jobs that pay less than \$7.50 an hour, with little increase in wage rates.

Restoring these benefits would be inexpensive. In fact, the cost for restoring these benefits has already been built into the \$6.4 billion allotment for the nutrition title in the farm bill.

The diet of our nation's children and families, whether they were born in the United States or somewhere else, should be one of the most important considerations in this year's farm bill debate. Restoring food stamps benefits to immigrants would be a step in the right direction.

While the Senate and House farm bill conferees continue to work hard to reconcile the differences in their farm bills, I urge them to consider the Baca motion and make restoring food stamps benefits to our hardworking immigrants a reality.

COMMEMORATING SAM L. ERVIN, HEALTHCARE PIONEER

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Sam L. Ervin, a pioneer in the development of innovative and cost effective programs that enhance the quality of life for older and disabled adults.

Mr. Ervin was the founding executive officer of the original Senior Care Action Network (SCAN), a social health maintenance organization in Long Beach, California. SCAN was selected by the then Health Care Financing Administration in 1982 to be one of four dem-

onstration sites for the Social HMO program. The Social HMO expands comprehensive HMO benefits to include community-based long-term care and some nursing home care.

Thanks to Sam Ervin's many years of remarkable leadership and dedication to improving the lives of senior citizens, today, SCAN serves more than 50,000 members in four Southern California counties. Since its inception, SCAN has made a unique and significant contribution to seniors' ability to remain healthy, independent and in control of where they live and how they live.

As a testament to SCAN's success and necessity, I have introduced H.R. 2953, the Coordinated Community Care Act of 2001 to make Social HMOs a permanent part of the Medicare+Choice program. I am proud to do so and to recognize Sam Ervin for his contributions to the improved quality of life for thousands of seniors.

INTRODUCING THE TAX EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENTS ACT

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "Tax Exemption for Military Student Loan Repayments Act."

Today's military requires more high-tech skilled personnel than ever before and the military continues to have a dire need to recruit for its shortage of medical personnel. To fill these jobs known as military occupational specialists or MOSs, the Army, Navy and Air Force utilize student loan repayment programs to attract skilled recruits who have gained high-tech, medical, or other valuable skills, but may be hesitant to join the military because they have incurred substantial indebtedness to finish their college education.

The military student loan repayment program remains popular among military officials because it targets a growing population of people with skills that the services can use. Unfortunately, these payments made towards student loan debt are considered taxable income although these payments are made directly to the student loan creditor, and the soldier, sailor, or airman never sees these payments reach their wallets. As a result, unless the military person requests additional funds to be withheld from their pay, they will in most cases owe a significant amount in taxes for each year repayments are made.

Having to pay taxes on this important recruitment incentive reduces the effectiveness of the program, which is designed to attract highly skilled military personnel to fill critical military occupational specialties. Further, the taxation of these payments seems to place an overly burdensome tax on the pay of military personnel who must already contend with a 7.6% military to civilian gap in pay. To enhance these recruitment efforts and deliver tax relief to military personnel, the "Tax Exemption for Military Student Loan Repayments Act" will amend Section 134 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude the military's student loan repayment from taxable gross income.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleague to support this legislation, which will enhance the military's effort to recruit highly skilled personnel,